



### Lodi Area Middle School

900 Sauk Street

Lodi, WI 53555

Teacher/Associate Principal: Lyle Hendrickson

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Lyle Hendrickson is a seventh-grade math teacher and assistant principal at Lodi Area Middle School in Lodi, Wisconsin. In 1998, he began a collaboration with Professor Brian Bottge (then at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, now at the University of Kentucky) and work with Anchored Instruction. During the 2000–2001 school year, Hendrickson joined with Rich Hagens, a technology education teacher who was instrumental in developing the hands-on applications for the projects. Over the past several years, their students have designed and constructed skateboard ramps, compost bins, park benches, and hovercraft frames. All of these projects have brought mathematics to life for the students and anchored their learning in realistic situations.

- ◆ Middle (6-8)
- ◆ 97.1% White
- ◆ 1.1% Asian
- ◆ 0.8% Hispanic
- ◆ 0.8% African American
- ◆ 13.2% Special Education/Disabled
- ◆ 11.9% free- and reduced-price lunch

Hendrickson worked with Bottge and his colleague, multimedia artist Enrique Rueda, to create the instructional materials, curriculum guide, computer software, and assessment materials that accompany the instructional unit Fraction of the Cost, a video-based approach to solving a math problem, which culminates in the hovercraft design activity. Hendrickson notes, “I see some students who have struggled to learn math concepts in the usual way now taking on a leadership role during the problem-solving process.” Students are more interactive during class time and work with the computer to find the right information they need to solve the problem. As Hendrickson says, “Instead of the teacher, I became their guide to understanding the process.”

The district and school have been supportive of the team’s efforts. For example, Principal Karen Mathis arranged the school schedule to enable Hagens to participate in Hendrickson’s math classes to provide technology education support. The district has also been supportive of their work and has shown flexibility in implementing the curriculum, one of the keys to their success. Hendrickson reports, “During the 2007–2008 school year, our seventh grade students at Lodi continue to experience the Fraction of the Cost and Kim’s Komet units, and it truly is their favorite time in math class. This experience has made me a better teacher and my students have become better mathematical problem solvers.”